Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0439

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NY

USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL NICOSIA 3872

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PINT, CY, TU

SUBJECT: TURK CYPRIOT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

REF: NICOSIA 3833

1. ON NOV. 30 V.P. DENKTASH ANNOUNCED THAT AUTONOMOUS TURKISH ADMINISTRATION (ATA) WILL CONVENE A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS FOR TURKISH WING OF FEDERATED CYPRIOT STATE. NO DATE GIVEN FOR ASSEMBLY. DENKTASH CLAIMED THAT IT NO LONGER POSSIBLE AMEND EXISTING LAWS: FOLLOWING TURKISH LANDING, AND SAMPSON COUP, NEW POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FOUNDATION REQUIRED FOR TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY.

2. ACCORDING DENKTASH, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE COMPOSED OF TURK CYPRIOT LEGISLATORS PLUS REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS UNSPECIFIED ORGANIZATIONS. V.P. ARGUED THAT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S FORMATION CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL NOT REPEAT NOT DETRACT FROM AUTHORITY TURK CYPRIOT LEGISLATURE..

3. DESPITE DISCLAIMER, ESTABLISHMENT CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY APPEARS TO BE CLEAR EFFORT PACK THIS QUASI-CONSTITUTIONAL BODY WITH DENKTASH SUPPORTERS. ONE DAY PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT, EIGHT ANTI-DENKTASH LEGISLATORS FORMED OPPOSITION GROUP WITHIN TURK CYPRIOT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. ADDITIONALLY, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT NECDET UNEL PROBABLY CAN ALSO BE COUNTED IN ANTI-DENKTASH CAMP FOLLOWING HIS RECENT DEMOTION FROM COMMUNITY'S NUMBER TWO POSITION. PRIOR TO INVASION, DENKTASH WAS ENCOUNTERING SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY IN MUSTERING MAJORITY WITHIN COMMUNITY'S LEGISLATURE. MAINLAND TURKS HIGH-HANDED BEHAVIOR IN PAST FOUR MONTHS, WITH DENKTASH'S TACIT APPROVAL, WOULD PROBABLY MAKE MAJORITY IMPOSSIBLE OBTAIN NOW. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY APPEARS GEARED FOIST STRONG EXECUTIVE ON INCREASINGLY FRACTIOUS LEGISLATURE.

4. DRAFTING CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT NOW, ALBEIT ONLY FOR "TURKISH WING", DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS. AS IN OTHER AREAS, TURKS APPEAR DETERMINED STAKE OUT MAXIMUM POSITIONS PRIOR TO ENTERING SUBSTANTIVE DIALOGUE. CRAWFORD

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